

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2 and 7-12 are currently pending. Claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended. New Claim 13 has been added. No new matter has been added with this amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-2 and 7-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Lee et al (US 6,820,158). Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that Lee does not disclose a ring topology where a control module for the arbitration information is integrated in the ring, as is presently claimed. For example, Lee in Fig. 4B only discloses an arbitration unit that is connected to both masters. However, in order to further the prosecution of the present application and better articulate the presently claimed invention, claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended as set forth above without acquiescence or prejudice. Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by the Lee reference at least for the reasons set forth above and those discussed below. The dependent claims 2 and 7-12 are also patentable at least because they depend from a patentable claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Lee as applied to claim 1 and further in view of King. In order to further the prosecution of the present application and better articulate the presently claimed invention, claim 1 from which claim 2 depends has been amended as set forth above.

Claims 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Lee in view of King and further in view of Jhang. In order to further the prosecution of the present application and better articulate the presently claimed invention, claim 1, from which claim 7 depends has been amended; claim 7, from which claim 10 depends has been amended and claim 12 has been amended as set forth above without acquiescence or

prejudice. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims are patentable over the cited references at least for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references disclose ring topologies which are provided in already tested and reliably working computer devices. It is therefore not necessary for the reference devices to provide a correction mechanism which can confront a situation where the bus is blocked by a lost arbitration information, as is the case with the presently claimed invention.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention is directed to a bus system for a test system in which new processor designs are emulated and tested. For example, as disclosed in the originally filed patent application, the presently claimed bus control module is able to relay a new arbitration frame into the ring bus when the previously relayed arbitration frame has been corrupted and thus did not return to the bus control module within a predetermined time. Such a corruption can happen when one of the master applications or client applications is an FPGA containing a new integrated circuit design which is to be tested and which does not yet work properly. In order to overcome such a corruption (i.e., such a blocked bus) the bus control module of the presently claimed invention automatically sends a new arbitration frame with a deactivated activity bit via the data bus to the other modules that are connected by the bus and thus is able to release the blocked data bus again. Such an automatic correction mechanism is not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references. The presently pending claims were amended to more effectively articulate this patentable aspect.

New Claim 13

New claim 13 has been added to better articulate and thus provide an adequate level of protection for the presently claimed invention having the above patentable aspect.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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